

## DDS Legislative Update – February 9, 2015

### Public Hearing on Group Homes – Friday, February 13, 2015

Two group home related bills will have a public hearing in the **Planning and Development Committee** this **Friday, February 13, 2015**. Below is information on how to testify or submit testimony. Persons who want to submit written testimony in lieu of testifying in-person may do so at the email address highlighted below. The agenda for this public hearing is at <http://www.cga.ct.gov/2015/pddata/pha/2015PHA00213-R001100PD-PHA.htm> **Also below are links to the two group home bills and the text of each bill.**

The **Planning and Development Committee** will hold a public hearing on **Friday, February 13, 2015** at **11:00 A.M.** in **Room 2B** of the LOB. Public speaker order will be determined by a lottery system. **Lottery numbers will be drawn from 9:30 A.M. to 11:00 A.M. in Room 2B of the LOB.** Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. Please email written testimony in Word or PDF format to [PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:PDtestimony@cga.ct.gov). The Committee requests that testimony be limited to matters related to the items on the Agenda. The first hour of the hearing is reserved for Legislators. Speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. **The Committee encourages witnesses to submit a written statement and to condense oral testimony to a summary of that statement.** Unofficial sign-up sheets have no standing with the Committee. All public hearing testimony, written and spoken, is public information. As such, it will be made available on the CGA website and indexed by internet search engines.

### **Proposed H.B. No. 5618 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNITY-BASED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

**That the general statutes be amended to implement the recommendations of the task force formed in the town of Manchester on state-operated community-based residential facilities concerning: (1) Notification of town officials regarding placement of community-based residential facilities; (2) review of placements made by the state in each such facility; (3) determination of the costs of community-based care versus institutional care; (4) reimbursement to the town for expenses incurred that relate to such facilities; (5) consideration of a moratorium on placements in such facilities located in the town of Manchester; (6) training for staff members at such facilities; and (7) monitoring of implementation and funding of mental health care plans.**

*Statement of Purpose:* To enact recommendations concerning state-operated group homes.

### **Proposed H.B. No. 6483 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY GROUP HOME DISTRIBUTION**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

**That a task force be established to study the distribution of group homes throughout the state.**

*Statement of Purpose:* To determine how to equitably distribute group homes throughout the state.

### **Some Important Dates**

**The Governor’s proposed budget for the next two fiscal years is scheduled for release on the Wednesday, February 18, 2015.** The Governor customarily gives his budget address before the General Assembly on the same day his budget is released.

**The Appropriations Committee schedules public hearings on the Governor’s proposed budget a week or two after the Governor’s budget has been released.** Each section of the Governor’s budget has a public hearing typically scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m. in Room 2C of the Legislative Office Building. The Health section of the budget contains the Department of Developmental Services budget. When more information about the Health section of the budget’s public hearing is available, we will let you know.

### **DDS Legislative Proposal for 2015**

The Public Health Committee has raised DDS’s one bill for this year. **DDS’s bill updates section 1-1g of the Connecticut General Statutes to define “intellectual disability” rather than defining “mental retardation.” This bill will not change any of the DDS eligibility criteria.** This bill also would remove a remaining reference in Connecticut statute to the term “the mentally retarded.”

### **Links to the General Assembly and Legislative Committees**

[Connecticut General Assembly](#)

[Appropriations Committee](#)

[Public Health Committee](#)

[Human Services Committee](#)

[Planning and Development Committee](#)

**DDS Legislative E-Mail Updates** - If you would like to receive DDS Legislative E-Mail Updates, please e-mail [Legislative Affairs](#) to sign up. Legislative updates will contain information on pending legislation, committee meetings, public hearings and legislative sessions of interest to DDS and its stakeholders.